



STEVENS SQUARE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

1900 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403; (612) 874-2840

www.stevenssquare.org

Events and Engagement Committee Meeting

AGENDA for Monday, March 28th at 6:00PM via Zoom

1. Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969345984>
2. **6:00PM (5 minutes)** - Introductions of Members and Guests
 - a. Molly Ellis (Co Chair of EEC) (she/her), Maureen Wells (Co Chair of EEC) (she/her), Michael (Volunteer) (he/him), Kayli (Community Engagement Intern) (she/her), Ken Strobel (Safety Team Leader) (he/him), Dee Tvedt (Safety Team Leader) (she/her), Malakai (Comms and Outreach) (they/them), Christine
3. **6:05PM (2 minutes)** - Previous Minutes approval
 - a. Ken moves to approve previous meeting minutes
 - b. Michael Seconds
 - c. All in favor of approving meeting minutes
4. **6:07PM (2-3 minutes)** - Land Acknowledgement Statement:
 - a. As we meet here today, we are reminded that Minneapolis is situated on the homelands of the Dakota people. An area that is steeped in rich Indigenous history, and today is home to Indigenous people from more than 30 different nations. As a City, we have a responsibility to care for the land on which we live and work and all its natural surroundings. This stewardship is an integral part of our involvement in this Committee, and we honor it as we begin our meeting. We now open this space to discuss ways in which we can support Indigenous people in our community.

Molly reads Land Acknowledgement Statement

Michael asks how we can find indigenous community(Stevens Square community) members who have not already identified themselves.

-Is primary focus on Stevens Square, or do we want to reach a bigger Minneapolis/St. Paul community?

Molly: Building stronger relationships with Native American organizations near SS, important to incorporate into event planning, interested in more ideas to bring the topic more hands on.

Maureen: Interested in finding Native Americans groups to come speak at meetings

Malakai: It is on the mind of SSCO board but needs to be filtered through better.

Maureen: Is there a way that is appropriate that we can ask people if they identify as Native American?

Kayli: One of the upcoming survey questions will be about demographic questions about ethnicities and races.

Malakai: Age, gender identity, renter or business owner, are all survey questions

Dee: Is there a board member that is indigenous?

Malakai: Board member has stepped down but still lives in the neighborhood.

Dee: Clear that the results of the survey are going to indicate who we have engaged with and take that into

consideration.

Malakai: Demographic survey questions are more about the relation to SSCO rather than finding demographic numbers.

Dee: Survey demographic statistics need to be compared to Census statistics to identify where SSCo is lacking in outreach

Christine: Would like to reach out to Dave and let him know he is welcome to rejoin board at a later date.

5. 6:23PM (5 minutes) - Upcoming Events - consistent for each committee meeting

Event Name	Event Date & Time	Details
Community Cleanup (every Sunday)	April 3rd, 10th, 24th 1pm-2pm	Meet at Stevens Square Park
Board Meeting	April 4th 6pm-7pm	On Zoom & In person at the Parsons Room @ Plymouth Church (1900 Nicollet Ave)
Stevens Square Park Springtime Get Together	April 7th 6pm-8pm	In Stevens Square Park (1801 Stevens Ave)
NDC Meeting	March 29th 6pm-7pm	on Zoom Apply for NDC Chair
EEC Meeting	April 25th 6pm-7pm	on Zoom
Safety Meeting	April 28th 6pm-7:30pm	on Zoom

Update SSCO website google calendar to have correct links

6. 6:26pm (15 minutes) - Stevens Square Park Springtime Get Together - Thursday, April 7th

- a. Action items? Work with the park board to refresh on duties of the park board, address recent concerns with problems in the park. Flower gardens in the park were approved, gardening will be addressed at the end of the meeting.
- b. Programming, nothing for kids to do other than playground, water in the park, aim to get the park board to serve the community better than they have in the past.
- c. On the website calendar, posters are arriving on Thursday, flyering volunteers needed. Apartment buildings in the park are the best place to start.

-Will the survey be happening at the event?

-Good pick up spot for surveys; half to safety office

-Christine: Consider a similar colored t-shirt to the event to establish a semblance of leadership.

How could this happen?

-Volunteers, people donating time to the event, to wear similar colors. Ex: "You can talk to someone in the (color) shirt for any assistance."

Green is the agreed color for volunteers to wear.

Malakai: slow capacity flyering is hitting all business and buildings on the square, potentially buildings on adjoining streets. 100 or so flyers.

Any other logistical questions?

-Think about how safety whistles can be used

Flyer is being sent to April, Jim, and a few other property management contacts. Will be done tomorrow-3/29/22.

Dee: where should the safety team focus on flyering?

Split into areas for different groups, Morgan will lead the decision about different locations and groups.

Safety team can potentially go out Friday 4/1 at 4:00pm.

Is there a person from SSCO staffing at the event? Morgan and Kayli will both be at the event doing survey distribution and tabling.

7. 6:43pm (5 minutes) - Earth Day Event - Friday, April 22nd

- a. Larger clean up event? What are thoughts in terms of what would need to happen?
- b. Molly; connect with Morgan to see if any volunteer interest has been brought up
- c. Is there enough resources to make the event possible? 10 grabbers for cleanup. Boiler room is a potential hand off point.
- d. Are people in EEC interested in a larger event or should we support a smaller Sunday pickup instead? Christine is interested in pushing a larger event, maybe see what interest already exists in Morgan's group.
- e. Molly: will loop back with Morgan to determine what day event would happen and if it works with her group.
- f. Dee: cautious about weeknight scheduled events. If there is a regular cleanup the following Sunday, does it make sense?
- g. Malakai: maybe a framing of the Sunday cleanup to be Earth Day themed, invest in snacks and drinks, maybe make a more organized cleanup gathering.
- h. Dee: Cleanup volunteer appreciation, graffiti removal volunteers needed. This could be a good recruitment opportunity.
- i. Maureen: Local fire station is out of graffiti remover, more would need to be purchased.

Action Item: Share these notes with Morgan and put Molly and Morgan in contact. Volunteer appreciation is a promising idea.

8. 6:52pm (10 minutes) - Community Unity Day/Citywide Election Day - Saturday, May 14th

- a. \$5,000 budget from MPLS Foundation - for mural, food, Afoutayi, collaborative art workshop, DJ
- b. Neighborhood Election Day to drive up participation. Happening May 14, 2022. Coincides around same time as Community Unity Day in year of 2021.

- c. Grant is to support the city driving up participation. Mural, food, some art and performance to do programming. Grant is very open to what funds are allocated towards. No reporting needed. Would like the grant to be used in May on community based events.
 - d. Grant can be used for something not what was proposed but the proposed idea is preferred.
 - e. New staff start dates won't start until April 18, 2022. Earlier start date is possible but the same start date is ideal for onboarding. New staff support with the event is ideal.
 - f. Christine: mural idea; the poem getting covered up would be a good candidate for a refresher or to be moved to a location that won't be covered in the future.
 - g. Molly: PW is also doing a large event, should both communities meet later on in the event?
 - h. Malakai: that brings to mind the Community Unity Day from last year. When asking if Red Hot Art artists were interested in it, some were interested and ready to go. Potential block is finding a location for the mural.
 - i. Maureen: Stevens Avenue blank wall. Maureen and Malakai will reach out.
 - j. Michael: BBQ on a set schedule is a good community event. Could require more commitment from newer people and would require a leader for the project. Food is a great incentive!
 - k. Malakai: has contacted property managers at Mint, they are interested in BBQ's- potential partnership. If Community day is a smaller event, the left over funds could be used to start something like this. Event could be a great way to kick up the BBQs.
- Start searching for potential people to help with BBQ
Community grills or buying a smaller grill are both options.

9. 7:07 (10 minutes) - Cookbook; tabled for next meeting

- a. Where are we at, what are next steps

10. 6:50 (5 minutes) - April's Meeting

- a. We're trying out hybrid at the next board meeting - any interest?
- b. Morgan & Kayli will support - new staff will be present
- c. Maureen and Christine are interested in the idea. Malakai will touch base with Morgan, the new staff will have been on for about a week so in person support could be needed.
- d. Malakai: Request will be submitted

11. 6:55pm (5 minutes) - Next steps/goodbyes

Dee: Cookie Fest feedback:

"How to Skillfully Intervene When an Intoxicated Person Enters an Event" --

"Know your audience" before engaging people for an event.

Use de-escalation techniques: diversion (for example, "free drinks over here!"), use a firm but kind voice, speak in short sentences, watch your tone of voice, don't shout, convey a non-judgmental attitude.

Use diversion techniques; direct person to free stuff.

Patience is the key.

Look at their eyes. Keep in mind that in some cultures, eye contact is considered inappropriate, especially between people of the opposite sex, and even rude.

For safety, keep space between you.

Techniques used to engage passersby: the use of visible signs (we used one of the Girl Scout's signs), waving of cookie boxes & signs; this was especially effective when a Girl Scout joined us in her recognizable vest.

Suggestions for next year:

More, better-focused publicity? (it was difficult to identify the GS cookies, which was the main draw)

More signs to wave!

More balloons, at each of the parking lot entrances!

More volunteers? [we acknowledge the challenges in getting this event revived after having to postpone it a week due to bad post-storm conditions]

- This event was the most fun for the girls and families

U-Haul Spotting:

SST is scheduling “U-Haul Spotting” shifts on the 1st of each month, to welcome new neighbors– they will remember this, especially the rental discount info. Are there recommended times of the day when you notice more people moving in?

- When do most people move into the community? On call members to help new members meet community members and hand out flyers.

7:14-Meeting Goodbyes

- We will miss you Malakai! They are lucky to have you!
- 7:15 Meeting called to end.

Stevens Square Community Organization Mission Statement

SSCO provides a respectful forum for community involvement and leadership that builds on neighborhood strengths to promote and improve Stevens Square-Loring Heights as a fun place to live, work, and play. SSCO works to strengthen Stevens Square-Loring Heights by initiating, integrating, and implementing key priorities:

- *Economic development (housing and commercial development)*
- *Community safety*
- *Clean green environment*
- *Building community through the arts*
- *Community involvement*

The purpose of the meeting is to conduct the business of the SSCO Events and Engagement Committee, which serves as a forum to discuss neighborhood issues related to developing community volunteers and neighborhood-wide social and civic events. The committee chair will take a report from this committee to the full Board of Directors.

Community members 16 and older who either live in the neighborhood or are representatives of businesses/institutions in the neighborhood can propose and vote on motions. Anyone may participate in discussions. Discussions will follow Parliamentary Procedure, as established.

Any person who wishes to be on the agenda for a community meeting should contact the SSCO office in writing or leave a voice message (612-874-2840) ten (10) days in advance of the next scheduled committee meeting. The EEC Chairs will review all requests and prepare the agenda.

SSCO recognizes that name and gender identity are central to most individuals' sense of self and well-being, and that it is important for SSCO to establish mechanisms to acknowledge and support individuals' self-identification. One way we can support identity is by honoring the name and pronouns that each of us go by.

Many people might go by a name in daily life that is different from their legal name. In our gatherings, we seek to refer to people by the names that they go by.

Pronouns can be a way to affirm someone's gender identity, but they can also be unrelated to a person's identity. They are simply a public way in which people are referred to in place of their name (e.g. "he" or "she" or "they" or "ze" or something else). At all SSCO

Board and committee meetings, you are invited (if you want to) to share what pronouns you go by, and we seek to refer to people using the pronouns that they share. The pronouns someone indicates are not necessarily indicative of their gender identity.